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WEEK DAYS.		Every 15 minutes	
7.00 a.m.	to 8.00 a.m.	" 10 "	" 15 "
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PEKING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, 17th May.
POLITICAL CHAOS.

Within the last decade there have been occasions almost two or three times a year which foreign onlookers have been wont to describe as "the most critical in the history of China." Another such occasion has now developed. The antagonism between Premier and Parliament has reached a crisis. It was precipitated last Thursday by a rather ugly-looking attempt to coerce Parliament into immediately passing the war resolution. The occurrence was typical of recent Chinese politics. A mob assembled outside the House of Representatives and maltreated members as they arrived, following this up by sending "delegates" into the House to demand that the resolution be passed. The Premier was summoned, but did not appear till late. There are suggestions that he only went because it was pointed out that if he did not go his action, or want of action, would be regarded as savouring of cowardice. Even he had some difficulty with the mob, and it was late in evening before the rioters were dispersed. The truculence of the mob is understood when it is explained that it was composed of men hired for the occasion and also of officers and soldiers—so, it is said—acting under instructions. Parliament, however, was not to be browbeaten, even though its members were virtually prisoners till after midnight.

On the face of it the incident looks very ugly. It is at once interpreted as a revival of the methods of Yuan Shih-kai, whose election as President in 1913 was only secured by the presence of soldiery in Parliament. Naturally the Premier is blamed for this discreditable attempt to coerce Parliament to his will, and certain members of his Cabinet immediately tendered their resignations. What looks worse is that the leaders of the disturbance have not yet been arrested, and that, too, in spite of the orders gravely issued on the subject. Had mob rule prevailed, its success would have justified it in certain eyes. Its failure increases the condemnation of the attempt.

One other view is interesting. It has been suggested that the attempt to coerce Parliament was engineered by his enemies in order to increase the odium against the Premier. It may be only the fanciful suggestion of a lively imagination, but even this, improbable as it occasionally very real in Chinese politics.

Since Thursday Parliament has not sat, but, none the less, the struggle between Premier and Parliament continues. Parliament, or at least the strong Kuomintang party which constitutes the majority, is endeavouring to force a situation which will compel the Premier to resign. They hope to induce Ministers to relinquish their portfolios, so that when Tuan Chieh-wei comes to Parliament for approval of their successors this endorsement will be refused and there will be no option for him but to resign. It is said that at one time since the event Tuan did contemplate resigning, if he did not actually do so, but he was persuaded to continue in office. Probably the military leaders at present in Peking would indicate that he was the only hope of the Peiyang party, and that if he resigned there would be no one to fill his place. But, of course, it is not quite true to say that no one could take his place. There are others whose names have been mentioned who could do equally well, provided, of course, they could secure the support of Parliament. Tuan's difficulties are due to the fact that he is opposed by a hostile majority in each House.

Parliament, however, has not been allowed to dominate the position by abstaining from meeting. A mandate has been issued asking members to consider the resolution in favour of declaring war upon Germany and to do so quickly. What will happen cannot be prophesied. If Parliament refuses to pass the resolution the President cannot issue the Mandate declaring war. A deadlock will arise, but we may be sure that it will not be allowed to continue long. Something will happen.

HOPE & CHEN.

The Editor of the *Peking Gazette*, seeing to possess certain Irish characteristics. He is very much "agin the Government" these days, and seems always to be spoiling for a fight—epistolary, of course. Like the stage Hibernian, he wields a shillelagh, but he calls it a literary bludgeon. With this weapon he prances into the fray, and no one is too big—or, for that

(Continued at foot of next column.)

CHINA WILL CASE.

RIACH v. HAY AND OTHERS.

In the Chancery Division of the High Court, before Mr. Justice Eve, on April 2nd, the case of Riach v. Hay and others, which was part heard on February 27, was concluded, a settlement suggested at the first hearing having been carried through.

Mr. Hughes, for plaintiff, said at the opening of the case that the action was "one in respect of an alleged breach of trust with regard to the realisation or non-realisation of certain shares forming part of the estate of the testator, Mr. John Riach. The securities in question were shares in a shipbuilding and engineering company at Shanghai (Boyd & Co., Ltd.), and they were an asset of considerable value. Upon an amalgamation of the company with two other companies, S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd., and the Shanghai Engineering and Dock Co., Ltd., the trustees took shares in the new amalgamated company, which were not retained in the trust for investment and were apparently making an effort to sell them. The result had been a very serious loss to the trust estate. In addition to that, continued counsel, they invested that forming part of the estate in taking shares of this new company, the amalgamated company, which was plainly not within the power of investment. The will of Mr. Riach was made in 1891, and he appointed Peter Ventnor Grant and the defendant, John Prentice, executors and trustees. He bequeathed all his real and personal estate not otherwise disposed of to the trustees upon trust to convert into money, and out of the money produced to pay legacies, etc., and invest the residue, paying the income thereof to his widow during her life, the estate afterwards reverting to the children. Testator died in 1892, and Mr. Hay was appointed a trustee in 1898 on the death of Mr. Grant. The events complained of were in 1901 and in 1906, at which time the two trustees were Mr. Hay and Mr. Prentice. In 1904 Mr. Hay retired, and the defendant Mr. Potts was appointed in his place. The present claim was against Mr. Hay only, leaving him to establish any right of contribution he might have against Mr. Prentice.

Mr. Maughan, for defendants, said he would not argue that there was not a technical breach of trust. Mr. Hay, however, had assented to a suggestion that involved the retirement of Mr. Prentice and Mr. Potts from the trusteeship (they had been away for more than twelve months), the appointment of two new trustees, and the payment by Mr. Hay and Mr. Prentice of £14,000 in full satisfaction of all claims of alleged breaches of trust. Costs of the plaintiff and defendant Potts would be paid out of the trust fund.

An adjournment was ordered pending the receipt of Mr. Prentice's consent. When the case was mentioned again on 2nd April it was stated that this arrangement, with certain unimportant modifications, had been carried through.

natter, too small—for him to assault. He attacks with cheerful alacrity the mailed knight or the unarmed citizen, that is, if either has been unfortunate enough to incur his displeasure or to hold opinions contrary to those entertained by his nightingales. For months he has bludgeoned the Premier and the papers which support him, and in the course of this campaign he has fallen foul of Mr. Richard Hope, formerly of Hongkong and now, proof-reader on the *Peking Daily News*. Mr. Hope resented these attacks upon him in the *Peking Gazette* and bearded the lion in his den. The public only learned of the interview through the columns of the *Peking Daily News*, to which Mr. Hope contributed a letter in which he stated that he was set upon by a dozen coolies and detained within the newspaper office against his will. He announced the editor of the *Peking Gazette* in unmeasured terms. Not content with making this statement through the Press Mr. Hope tackled his "enemy" publicly in the Peking Pavilion on Saturday night and called these present to view in Mr. Eugene Chen all that he had called him in the paper. This washing of "soil" in public is not good for either party. The public only grin.

PEKING BRITISH VOLUNTEERS.

For the first time since the inception of the company, its members are able to enjoy rifle practice, and during the present month they are making good use of their opportunities at the International Range, east of the city. There will be another practice in the autumn, followed by the regular class-firing. Lieut. Willis, the Adjutant, has returned to Tientsin, the regular Sergeant Instructor has come back to Peking.

AUSTRIAN SOLDIERS DISAPPEAR.

The local Press reports "Mysterious Disappearance of three Austrian Marines." The Austrian Legation has asked the Chinese Police and Gendarmerie to assist it in tracing the missing men. Most likely they have followed some of their enterprising German comrades who escaped before the severance of diplomatic relations to a pleasant place somewhere in the vicinity of Shanghai.

FRENCH ENTERTAINMENT.

Following the example of their British and American sisters, the French ladies in the capital are determined to do their bit in aid of the Allied Red Cross Fund. "L'Arlesienne," Daudet's celebrated comedy, will be given in the French Legation, on Friday evening, when French music and choruses will be rendered with the assistance of the Union Philharmonique de Peking.

SUMMER.

After a long and delightfully cool spring summer, has arrived, and while clothing is replacing the darker garments which until now were quite comfortably worn. Tennis is in full swing, and the summer tournament at the International Courts begins next week.

UNITED STATES TRADE WITH CHINA.

A RECORD YEAR.

Trade of the United States with China in the calendar year 1916 was the largest in the history of their commerce with that country. It totalled \$111,557,000, against \$72,686,000 in 1915 and \$55,672,000 in 1914, having thus practically doubled in two years. These figures relate to China proper and do not include the trade with China's leased territory, which was in 1916 nearly \$5,000,000.

The exports to China in 1916, \$31,015,000, were, according to a compilation by the Foreign Trade Department of the National City Bank of New York, larger than in any earlier calendar year except 1905, the year in which demands for American cottons at the close of the Russo-Japanese War brought China's imports from the United States to an exceptionally high figure. The imports from China in 1916, \$80,542,000, were larger than in any former year, the total of 1915 having been but \$52,835,000 and 1914 \$30,314,000. Exports to China in 1916 are 50 per cent. in excess of 1915 or 1914, and the imports from the country nearly 60 per cent. in excess of 1915 and more than double those of 1914.

The increase in the exports to China is especially interesting in view of the fact that it occurs chiefly in iron and steel manufactures, usually considered an important barometer of trade and industrial development of the importing country. The total value of iron and steel exported to China in the fiscal year 1916 was \$5,543,000, against \$2,710,000 in 1915, \$2,940,000 in 1914, and \$2,370,000 in 1913. Bars and rods of steel, for example, exported to China in 1916 were 26,355,000 lb., against 9,650,000 lb. in 1915, and \$75,000 in 1914. Wire nails to China in 1916 amounted to 20,626,000 lb., against 10,556,000 lb. in 1915; pipes and fittings, \$151,000, against \$36,000 in 1915. Tinplate was 35,409,000 lb., against 22,900,000 lb. in 1915 and 8,988,000 lb. in 1914, the value being in 1916 \$1,249,000, against \$82,000 in 1915 and \$299,000 in 1914. Wire in 1916 was 14,482,000 lb., against 1,810,000 lb. in 1915 and 1,337,000 lb. in 1914.

Cigarettes show also a marked increase. The total value of cigarettes exported to China in the fiscal year 1916 was \$2,749,000, against \$1,182,000 in 1915, while the figures of the calendar year 1916 show a total of \$4,892,000, against \$1,100,000 in the calendar year 1915. Automobiles show a slight increase, amounting in the fiscal year 1916 to \$192,000, against \$130,000 in 1915, and railway cars \$134,000, against \$31,000 in the preceding year. Electrical machinery was in 1916 \$403,000, against \$239,000 in 1915.

Cotton goods exports to China have greatly fallen in recent years, owing to the fact that Japan, her near neighbour, has become a large manufacturer of cotton goods. The class of manufactures which she produces for her own people are acceptable in form, colours, etc., to the people of China, while the fact that they are offered through Japanese salesmen, familiar with the customs and language of China, adds materially to their acceptability by the merchants of that country.

In cotton cloths the movement from the United States to China continues to decline, the total of cotton cloths exported to that country in the calendar year 1916 having been but 2,742,000 yards, against 11,117,000 in 1915, 39,440,000 in 1914 and 21,179,000 in 1913; the value in 1916 was \$240,000, against \$1,383,000 in 1915, \$2,790,000 in 1914, \$8,014,000 in 1913, and \$33,515,000 in 1905—the high record year in exports of cottons to China. British exports of cotton piece goods to China in 1916 were 377,425,000 yards, against 577,948,000 in 1914.

DEATH AND THE SOUL.

ADDRESS BY THE BISHOP OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The Bishop of the Philippines, preaching at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Easter Day, said:—At the moment when the Angel of Death was in our midst it was necessary to be assured that, whatever his power, he was impotent to maintain much less to extinguish human personality. One of our writers had with great imaginative force referred to the resistance of Belgium and the Gallipoli campaign as the two most striking events of the war. These were defeats; yet they were splendid; they were wonderful because in them was seen the soul of man willing, immortal things, defying death, and identifying human life with an eternal cause, a cause which took those who identified themselves with it into the presence of God. These were great days for America, for England, for France, three mighty democracies so interlocked in a great common cause that, please God, they could never again be separated. Yonder, across the seas, the great majority of American citizens were thinking of life, not of death. He knew his country, and he was not mistaken when he said that when the time came America would speak in terms that would thrill mankind. Their object was simply the rights of mankind, for which they were only one of the champions, and to do their duty they would sacrifice their lives, their fortunes, all they possessed.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

Capt. Gordon Cecil Darwall, F.R.G.S., died on March 31st from disease contracted on active service. He served in the 3rd Northamptonshire Regiment, subsequently obtaining an appointment under the Chinese Government, when he volunteered for plague duty.

AMERICA AND FAR EASTERN TRADE.

PREPARING THE WAY FOR NEW BUSINESS.

In order that the United States may play a more prominent part in the commerce on the Pacific, the Department of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington has started an investigation into port and transportation facilities in Russia and the Far East. The work will be carried on by Mr. Paul Page Whitman, a consulting engineer of Seattle. Not only will the existing conditions be examined, but proposed facilities of ports, rivers and railroad transportation in order that American business men may have an adequate knowledge of a trade that can be greatly increased, according to Mr. Whitman. Mr. Whitman recently stated that his work would last until the summer of 1918, and that he hoped to bring back with him a vast amount of information that would lead to an extension of the activities of the American Mercantile Marine to the Far Eastern waters. He also pointed out that the future development of Oriental ports depended on capital, and that he would study any opportunities for American financiers. Mr. Whitman will visit Russia, China, Japan, the Philippines, French China, the Federated Malay States, the East Indies, Burma, India and Australasia, and his investigation will not be confined to the ports of those countries, but will be extended to the territory accessible by railroads and canals. The first object is to provide American shipowners and operators and those interested in foreign trade full and reliable information so that the shipper can determine the ports through which he can most advantageously reach certain territories and the best routes from there to his destination. Another object of the investigation is to obtain information regarding the development of the ports, especially in China and Asiatic Russia, with a view to discovering openings for the investment of American capital. Mr. Whitman will also study the markets for cranes, warehouses, cold storage plants, grain elevators, lighterage machinery, and such goods as would be in demand in almost any port.

THE BELIEF IN CHARMS.
AN EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

While it is doubtful if religion has gained from the war, there can be no doubt that the war has shown a great recrudescence of superstition. The German submarine campaign is prolonging the life of one superstition at least. In Nelson's time there was a limited trade in charms then popularly believed to be a sure charm against death at sea by drowning, and in those days a single specimen would fetch as much as £20. Since Nelson's time there has been less demand for these objects, and five years ago they sold at 2s. apiece. Now, thanks to the activities of the German "under-water craft," they are being sold at the London Docks for £21.

This is one of many interesting facts brought out by an exhibition of charms illustrating faith in the supernatural that apparently still obtains in London. The collection, which has been got together by Mr. Edward Lovett, a member of the council of the Folk Lore Society, is to be seen at the Southwark Central Library, Walworth Road. It has no relation to what may be called religious superstitions, but it shows how widespread is the belief, especially in East and South London, that the fortune of individuals can be affected by some inanimate object deemed to be lucky or potent against disaster. One of the charms of course, are prominent. One that is shown is "dragon's blood," gum, red in colour, and it is claimed that if this is burnt at midnight, preferably on a Friday, it will not fail to win a lover. Mr. Lovett states that this practice still survives, and many young girls in London carry out these mystic rites religiously. Another charm of the same sort is the root of a little yellow wild flower (*Potentilla tormentilla*). It also has to be burnt, but its efficacy lies in the fact that it renews a dead or waning affection rather than influences an existing one.

Medicinal charms form a large part of the collection. There are necklaces made of the stems of the nightshade which, if put around the neck of an infant, will help it to cut its teeth. A necklace of acorns is a specific against other infant ills. A knucklebone, carried in the pocket, will ward off rheumatism, the theory being that as the dead bone does not suffer from the complaint the disease will go into it. Another cure for rheumatism is a potato. A specimen shown was carried by a rheumatic subject for many years. A third charm against the same complaint is a small bottle containing mercury, hermetically sealed and covered with leather. Mr. Lovett states that it is sold in London by one of the largest chemists in the world.

Those who suffer from nightmare may welcome this prescription. A pair of horseshoes covered in blue and red cloth, or a string of stones, naturally perforated, should be hung up at the head of the bed. A necklace of blue beads will protect a child against bronchitis, while red beads or coral will avert sore throats. A small bag containing a tooth should be placed round the neck of an infant as an antidote against teething convulsions. Since the beginning of the war another charm against disease has been introduced by Belgian refugees—the wearing of cat's skin for rheumatism and chest troubles.

One of the most curious of the exhibits is a sheep's heart, pierced with pins and nails to break the spell of a black witch. It was prepared by an old woman who practised witchcraft in London as late as 1908. She learned the secret of the charm from her grandmother in South Devon, where it was popular with farmers. The black witches were supposed to bring about the death of sheep and cows by casting a spell over them or by surreptitiously introducing the poisonous leaves of the yew tree into their food. By taking the heart of a sheep which had fallen victim to these machinations, piercing it with pins and nails, and hanging it in the chimney, the spell was supposed to be broken.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

The 32nd annual ordinary general meeting of the above was held at the Hongkong Hotel on Saturday. Mr. Henry Humphreys presided, and those also present were:—Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and Mr. J. Scott Harston (Consulting Committee), and Messrs. W. Morley, P. C. Potts, D. E. Clark, C. E. Buyers, W. H. B. Muskott, G. Rapp, W. G. Humphreys, P. Tester, W. A. Loughlin, J. M. Wong and F. W. Stapleton, with the Secretary, Mr. J. A. Tarrant.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, after which

The Chairman said,—Gentlemen, I do not propose to read the report and statement of accounts and auditors' report unless you wish it, as same have been in your hands for the past week. I am glad to again be able to come before you with a favourable account. In keeping down the dividends below the level, relatively, of those paid in former times, and by freely writing off for depreciation, the financial position of the Company has undergone something like a transformation, and our liabilities, other than capital and reserve, are getting steadily smaller, whilst our liquid and tangible assets are growing. We have, of course, been affected, in some ways, prejudicially by the war. Apart from the difficulty in obtaining much needed supplies, we have given freely both in treasure and men. Our donations to war charities have been large, and no less than seven of our men are at the front, all of whom have received financial assistance from the Company. Several of them have already obtained commissions. Of the seven, we have only been able to replace four, so that we are now working three men short. Any further demand on our man-power will necessitate the closing of one or more of our branches. Comparing the accounts before you with those of the previous year, you will notice that the mortgage on Shameen Lot No. 74, Canton, and the buildings thereon, has been paid off, but the amount owing against mortgage of Marine Lot No. 293 and Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1208 up to \$125,000, has been correspondingly increased. Our stocks show an increase of \$47,905, representing, for the most part, increases in leading lines for which we have a ready sale and are difficult now to get. We are very glad indeed to have those increased stocks. The loss on subsidiary coins in 1916 was \$10,036.34, or \$9,140.51 less than the previous year. Practically the whole of the saving has occurred in Hongkong. Our Shanghai Soda Water Factory was sold during the year, and the loss on same has been deducted from our trading profits in the accounts before you. The item in the accounts among the assets, "Mortgage by W. J. Haynes on Shanghai Aerated Water Plant and Machinery," represents security for the balance of the purchase money. A fire in the Stanley Street Warehouse on 11th April last resulted in the whole of the fifth floor and cockpit, used as a laboratory, and for putting up proprietary medicines respectively, being destroyed. Fortunately, the fire-proof iron door and concrete floor prevented the flames spreading to the rest of the structure and the adjoining buildings, which only suffered from water damage. Although there is a good deal of dislocation and inconvenience, we are able to carry on. The loss and damage to stocks and building are covered by insurance. The proposed transfer of \$20,000 to reserve fund, and the payment of \$3,000 to staff provident fund will, I trust, meet with your approval. I have now to propose that the report and statement of accounts, as presented, be passed, and when same has been duly seconded the accounts will be open for discussion.

Mr. Potts seconded, and there being no questions, the proposition was unanimously carried.

On the proposition of Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Morley, Messrs. F. Mailland and C. Bernard Brown were re-elected auditors to the Company at a remuneration of \$350 each per annum.

This was all the business, and the Chairman announced that dividend warrants were ready, and could be had on application at the Company's office.

Messrs. J. M. de Rocha & Co. have recently taken over the agency for the British Dominions Insurance Co., Ltd.

PEAK TRAMWAYS CO., LTD.

The ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above was held at the Hongkong Hotel on Saturday.

Mr. Henry Humphreys presided, and those also present were:—Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton, Mr. J. Scott Harston and Mr. C. S. Gubbay (Directors), and Messrs. J. A. Tarrant, W. Morley and D. E. Clark, with Mr. G. Rapp, Secretary.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said,—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts and auditors' report having been in your hands for the past week, I propose, with your permission to take them as read.

The accounts, as you will observe, are not as good as last year. There has been an increase of \$252.45 in traffic receipts, and a saving of \$2,134.18 in wages and \$2,321.00 in subsidiary costs, respectively. On the other hand, costs and stores (principally coal) have cost \$4,454.77 more. The donation to War Charities, viz., \$2,500, accounts for nearly all the difference between this year's net profit and last, and is responsible for our not being able to add anything to reserve for the period under review. This is a matter which need cause no concern to shareholders, for the Company's Reserve Fund is sufficient for its present needs. Taking everything into consideration, your directors think that the payment of the same dividend as last year is justified and will be appreciated, and they have no doubt the donation to war charities will meet with your approval. In these days we not only have to give as individuals but as corporations, and although many of us in so doing give twice over I am sure there will be none to grudge in so good a cause. During the year the mortgage on R.B.L. 21 was paid off, and the money therefrom invested in shares of local companies. I do not think there is anything else calling for special comment, so I will now propose that the report and statement of accounts as presented be passed. When this has been duly seconded I shall be pleased, before putting the motion to the meeting, to answer any questions shareholders may have to ask.

Mr. Tarrant seconded, and there being no questions, the resolution was unanimously carried.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Morley, Dr. J. W. Noble, Mr. J. Scott Harston, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and the Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton were re-elected Directors.

On the proposition of Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Morley, Messrs. C. Bernard Brown and A. R. Lowe were re-elected auditors to the Company at a remuneration of \$100 each.

This was all the business, and the Chairman announced that dividend warrants were ready, and could be had on application.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

The same sentence was imposed by Mr. Dyer Ball upon a coolie who was charged with the theft of a chopper from Messrs. Caldwell, Macgregor's yard in Queen's Road Central.

When a Chinese woman was found guilty of aiding and abetting her "grand-uncle" in the theft of a gold watch and chain, Mr. Dyer Ball imposed sentence of six weeks' hard labour.

When charged before Mr. Dyer Ball with the theft of a box containing \$2.50, and clothing valued at \$12.40, a Chinese said that he had a bad leg, was unable to work, and he purloined the money and clothing in order to secure the funds necessary to take him to his home in the country. It was proved that the defendant possessed two very sound legs, and he was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

UNMARRIED GERMAN WIDOWS.

Several of the German States, including Saxony, Baden, and the Mecklenburg Grand Duchies, have now passed laws entitling any German girl henceforth to be known as "Frau" (Mrs.) whose husband is definitely known to have fallen in action. Proof only requires to be furnished of a bona fide betrothal existing before the soldier's death. Women who thus acquire the title of a married woman will not take the name of their late husband but retain their maiden surname.

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

THE SECOND MEETING.

PATRONS.—H.E. Sir Francis Henry May, K.C.M.G., H.E. Major-General F. Ventris, Commodore H. G. C. Sandeman, R.N.

COMMITTEE.—The Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club (ex-officio), Mr. H. P. White, Mr. B. D. F. Beith, Mr. D. M. Ross, Dr. Forsyth, Capt. Cassel, Mr. G. C. Moxon and Mr. C. H. Blason.

JUDGES.—Mr. C. E. Anton.

HANDICAPPER.—Mr. D. M. Ross.

1st STARTER.—Mr. H. J. Gedge.

2nd STARTER.—Mr. Paul M. Hodgson.

TIME KEEPER.—Mr. M. S. Sassoon.

The unsatisfactory weather had a marked effect upon the attendance at the second meeting of the Hongkong Gymkhana Club on Saturday, but the racing, despite the heavy going, was always good, and some very fair prices were paid out by the pari-mutuel. There were two variety events, an egg and spoon, and a Victoria Cross race. In the former, Mr. C. H. Blason was the only rider to retain his egg both out and home, and in the Victoria Cross competition Mr. Beith's pony proved the most satisfactory one "under fire." Several of the others absolutely refused to approach where the Chinese cracker was doing its best to imitate heavy artillery, and the result was a very easy win for Mr. Beith, who dashed out and brought home his "wounded" in good time. All the other events provided quite good finishes. In the Gymkhana Stakes, Cadzow's Waif, by defeating Australian Chief in a field of three, drew level with Mr. Kadoorie's pony in regard to points, and the marks earned to date are now as follow:—Australian Chief, 6; Cadzow's Waif, 6; Field Mouse 1. The Middlesex Regiment, whose private stand was decked out in the "Diehards" colours, maroon and amber, had a representative in the racing in Oak Bay, but the pony had to carry too much weight, and, though putting up quite a good show, was unable to secure a place. However, the Middlesex are by no means dismayed, and when, at the next Gymkhana, a lighter jockey can be found, they have great hopes of seeing the maroon and amber jacket pass the post first.

During the afternoon the band of the Middlesex Regiment (Bandmaster Lawrie Owen) rendered an enjoyable music programme.

The full results were follow:—

FIVE FURLONGS RACE, HANDICAP.—For all China ponies in the Colony on 1st May, that have run and not won a race at Official Meetings, Off-Days, or Gymkhana since January 1st, 1917.

Mr. J. H. Congdon's New Ally II. (late Warriolani), 156lb (Mr. Barton) 1

Mr. Staves' Sinoia, 152lb (Mr. Knoll) 2

Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Pingwa Chief, 155lb (Mr. Seth) 3

Mr. Adams' Tittlemouse, 150lb (Mr. Adams) 0

Mr. Polka's Moka (late Mo), 150lb (Mr. Sedgwick) 0

Mr. Mapco's Oak Bay, 154lb (Mr. Sutton) 0

Time: 1min 20secs.

Won by one length, many lengths between second and third.

Cash Sweep. Pari-Mutuel.

Winning No. Winner: \$18.10

34, \$321.30 1, 2.50

91, 91.80 2, 5.80

53, 45.80 3, 5.30

GYMKHANA STAKES.—One Mile. For all China ponies. Catch weights at 10st. 0lb. Winners of an open race or open griffin race or ponies that have won the aggregate prize in the Gymkhana Stakes in any season 5lb extra. Non-winning subscription griffins allowed 5lb.

Mr. T. F. Hough's Cadzow's Waif, 149lb (Mr. Sedgwick) 1

Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Australian Chief, 156lb (Mr. Seth) 2

Messrs. Beith, Ross & Swick's Town Mouse, 146lb (Mr. Knoll) 0

Time: 2min 11-5secs.

Won by two lengths, one length between second and third.

Cash Sweep. Pari-Mutuel.

Winning No. Winner: \$15.50

130, \$600.60 1, 13.10

26, 171.60 2, 9.80

107, 85.80 3, 10.40

LADIES' NOMINATION. Egg and Spoon Race.

Nominated by

Mr. C. H. Blason Mrs. Forsyth 1

Mr. F. Sutton Mrs. F. Sutton 2

Mr. G. C. Moxon Miss Hastings 3

Mr. Lancelot Mrs. Galloway 0

Mr. Roderick Barton Miss Lammert 0

Mr. T. J. Fisher Miss Edkins 0

Cash Sweep. Pari-Mutuel.

Winning No. Winner: \$35.10

102, \$379.60 1, 8.20

106, 135.60 2, 9.80

45, 62.80 3, 10.40

(Continued at foot of next column.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

HONGKONG AND WAR TAXES

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—Much has been written and many suggestions have been made public through your paper re taxing the residents of the Colony, and, in your correspondence of to-day's date, Mr. W. A. Dowley gave a very good suggestion, but, unfortunately, he exempted the passengers leaving the Colony for Macao and Canton.

Many of those who are leaving the Colony for a short trip to Macao and Canton take with them a good lump sum to try their luck at fantan. What would it be to them if they were to pay an extra \$1 or 50 cents, respectively?

Another suggestion which I think is a good one is that the Hongkong Government should surtax letters to or from the Colony (say) at the rate of 1 cent for every two ounces and 1 cent for local letters, the same as the Canadian and Australian Governments are doing. I am sure that many who are residents in the Colony would prefer to pay an extra 2 cents on their correspondence than to pay 1 per cent on their house rent.—Yours faithfully,

H. A. HYNDMAN.

Hongkong, 28th May, 1917.

OFFICIAL NIGHTS.

The following table shows the Standard Time at which Official Night ends and begins during the month of June, 1917:—

Date.	Ends.	Begin.
June 1st.	5.27 a.m.	7.13 p.m.
" 2nd.	5.27 "	7.13 "
" 3rd.	5.27 "	7.14 "
" 4th.	5.27 "	7.14 "
" 5th.	5.28 "	7.16 "
" 6th.	5.28 "	7.16 "
" 7th.	5.28 "	7.16 "
" 8th.	5.27 "	7.17 "
" 9th.	5.27 "	7.17 "
" 10th.	5.27 "	7.17 "
" 11th.	5.27 "	7.17 "
" 12th.	5.27 "	7.17 "
" 13th.	5.28 "	7.18 "
" 14th.	5.28 "	7.18 "
" 15th.	5.28 "	7.18 "
" 16th.	5.28 "	7.18 "
" 17th.	5.28 "	7.18 "
" 18th.	5.29 "	7.19 "
" 19th.	5.29 "	7.19 "
" 20th.	5.29 "	7.19 "
" 21st.	5.29 "	7.19 "
" 22nd.	5.29 "	7.19 "
" 23rd.	5.30 "	7.20 "
" 24th.	5.30 "	7.20 "
" 25th.	5.30 "	7.20 "
" 26th.	5.30 "	7.20 "
" 27th.	5.31 "	7.21 "
" 28th.	5.31 "	7.21 "
" 29th.	5.31 "	7.21 "
" 30th.	5.31 "	7.21 "

FROM THE TWO MILE POST ONCE ROUND AND IN.

Messrs. Beith, Ross & Swick's King Dick, 159lb (Mr. Sedgwick) 1
Mr. H. B. L. Dowbiggin's Ben Bolt (late King Ben), 157lb (Mr. Knoll) 2
Sir Paul's Magic Dahlia, 150lb (Mr. Seth) 3
Mr. Nemo's Cloudlands, 154lb (Mr. Sutton) 0
Dr. Forsyth's Buchanan's, 158lb (Mr. Barton) 0

Time: 2min 20secs.

Won by half length, same between second and third.

Cash Sweep. Pari-Mutuel.

Winning No. Winner: \$18.60

145, \$688.40 1, 7.60

220, 190.40 2, 6.00

221, 98.30 3, 5.80

VICTORIA CROSS COMPETITION.

1.—Mr. B. D. F. Beith.

2.—Mr. G. C. Moxon.

3.—Mr. Roderick Barton.

Mr. T. J. Fisher.

Mr. Lancelot.

Mr. Adams.

Mr. H. Seth.

Cash Sweep. Pari-Mutuel.

Winning No. Winner: \$50.50

89, \$392.90 1, 2.20

178, 189.40 2, 8.00

173, 94.70 3, 5.80

CLASS HANDICAP. "A" Class.—One and a Quarter Mile Race.

Mr. Nemo's Cloudlands, 158lb (Mr. Sedgwick) 1

Dr. Forsyth's Rex (late Merry Monarch), 149lb (Mr. Barton) 2

Messrs. Beith, Ross & Swick's King Dick, 159lb (Mr. Seth) 3

Sir Paul's Choice Dahlia, 157lb (Mr. Barton) 0

Mr. Henry Humphreys' Field Mouse, 154lb (Mr. Knoll) 0

Time: 2min 49.3-secs.

Won by a length, two lengths between second and third.

Cash Sweep. Pari-Mutuel.

Winning No. Winner: \$70.70

163, \$392.50 1, 49.00

214, 235.00 2, 15.00

213, 127.50 3, 11.60

CLASS HANDICAP. "B" Class.—Once Round.

Mr. J. H. Congdon's New Ally II. (late Warriolani), 153lb (Mr. Barton) 1

Mr. H. B. L. Dowbiggin's Whip-in, 156lb (Mr. Knoll) 2

Mr. Cottager's Ariel (late Aerialini), 152lb (Mr. Seth) 3

Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Pingwa Chief, 152lb (Mr. Adams) 0

Messrs. Beith, Ross & Swick's Town Mouse, 151lb (Mr. Sedgwick) 0

Mr. Mapco's Oak Bay, 154lb (Mr. Sutton) 0

Time: 2min 12-secs.

Won by a neck, same between second and third.

Cash Sweep. Pari-Mutuel.

Winning No. Winner: \$46.60

147, \$579.60 1, 8.60

45, 135.60 2, 8.00

172, 82.80 3, 11.60

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No. 4 Medium...

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or 1.85 .. 50

No. 5 Small ...

\$3.20 per 100

or 1.65 .. 50

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE WAR.

GREAT ITALIAN OFFENSIVE CONTINUES.

ENEMY SUFFERS TREMENDOUS LOSSES.

AIR RAID ON ENGLAND.

A TOWN SUFFERS HEAVILY.

MANY CASUALTIES INFLICTED.

THE PREMIER ON SUBMARINISM.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH REPULSE RAIDS.

LONDON, May 26th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We repulsed raids last night northward of Gouzeaucourt and eastward of Armentieres.

We have slightly improved our position on the right bank of the Scarpe. There has been increased hostile artillery firing between Croiselles and the Scarpe.

SUCCESSFUL RAIDS.

LATER.
Our line was advanced slightly to-day westward and northward of Fontaine-Croiselles.

We carried out a successful raid early this morning north-westward of Wytschaete and secured prisoners.

There were many air reconnaissances and bombing raids were carried out. On Friday five German aeroplanes were brought down and five very driven down. Five of ours are missing.

FRENCH EXTEND POSITIONS.

PARIS, May 26th.
A communiqué states: Two successive attacks against our salients east and west of Cerny proved resultless.

We attacked on both sides of Mont-Cornillet, considerably extending our positions.

We captured 120 prisoners.

GERMAN ASSAULT FAILS.

PARIS, May 26th.
An official report states:—After a most violent bombardment north-west of Bray-en-Laonnois three strong German columns assaulted the salient north of Chemin-des-Dames.

The enemy succeeded, after suffering sanguinary losses, in gaining a lodgement at some points of the advanced trench. Immediate counter-attacks recaptured most of these points.

We brought back 65 prisoners and two machine-guns.

EARLIER CABLES.

BRITISH FRONT.

LONDON, May 25th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Reciprocal artillery firing was active, particularly on the left bank of the Scarpe and in the neighbourhood of Loos.

There was much air-fighting on Thursday, seven German aeroplanes being brought down, five being driven down, and six of ours are missing.

FRENCH FRONT.

PARIS, May 25th.
A communiqué states:—On Chemin-des-Dames front there was great mutual artillery activity in the region north-west of Bray-en-Laonnois, especially towards "The Pantheon."

Eastward we carried out a completely successful operation against a portion of the Chevaux Wood, despite energetic resistance.

We discovered many corpses in shelters which our heavy artillery had destroyed.

Aerial Activities.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ENGLAND RAIDED BY AIRCRAFT.

MANY CASUALTIES.

LONDON, May 26th.
A large squadron of enemy aircraft, numbering about sixteen, attacked the south-east of England, between 5.15 and 6.30 last evening.

Bombs were dropped at a number of places. Nearly all the damage occurred in one town, where the bombs fell in the streets, causing considerable casualties among civilians.

Shops and houses were seriously damaged.

Seventy-six were killed, of whom 27 were women, 23 children; 174 were injured, of whom 43 were women and 10 children.

Our aeroplanes pursued the raiders, and Naval aeroplanes from Dunkirk engaged the returning raiders.

The Admiralty reports that three enemy aeroplanes were shot down.

The air raiders flew at a great altitude. They crossed the town in formations of five, bombing continuously.

Much damage was done to property in the residential part. A butcher's and bootmaker's shops were demolished, the occupants of the latter being killed.

The worst damage occurred in the busy business thoroughfare, which was thronged with people, where a very large number of bombs were dropped, killing sixteen women, eight men, nine children, and injuring 42.

LATER.

It is estimated that fifty bombs were dropped by the departing raiders. They were severely engaged over the Channel.

An eye-witness heard heavy firing and saw two peculiar-looking aeroplanes manoeuvring at a great height. Shells were bursting round them, and one machine nosedived suddenly as though hit. Later heavy firing was heard seaward.

Other reports indicate that the raiders covered a wide area, penetrating some distance inland and scattering bombs promiscuously.

The Admiralty report states:—Our machines in the evening engaged over the sea several of the enemy aircraft returning from a raid in England.

In an engagement between one of the British and three hostile aeroplanes in Mid-Channel, one of the latter was destroyed.

Two large twin-engined hostile machines were shot down in the course of several encounters off the Belgian coast.

All our machines returned safely.

BRITISH BOMB ENEMY AERODROME.

The Admiralty announces that Naval aeroplanes attacked the aerodrome at St. Denis-Westram yesterday morning, dropping many bombs.

FRENCH AEROPLANES BOMB POINTS.

PARIS, May 27th.

A communiqué states that there was intermittent artillery firing in Champagne.

French aeroplanes dropped 13,000 kilos of bombs on Marslatour, Confans, and elsewhere, doing considerable damage.

Italian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ITALIANS MASTERS OF ZONE.

ROME, May 26th.
A semi-official report states that the Italians have mastered the whole zone between Castagnavizza and the sea. Thus only the Sermada stronghold stands between the coast and the road to the Comen Plateau, and Italian action towards Trieste and Laibach is now possible.

ENEMY SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES.

ROME, May 26th.
An official report states:—Heavy fighting continues on the Carso.

We carried another strongly fortified position and captured 3,500 prisoners; also a network of trenches from the mouth of the Timavo River to eastward of Jamiano, and took possession of the heights between Flondar and Medazza. The enemy's defences eastward of Boscomale are broken and the trenches around Castagnavizza were taken.

We extended our positions on the hill northward of Tivoli and drove back the enemy in the Vodice area with heavy loss.

The number of the enemy captured on the Julian Front since May 14th is 32,419, including 487 officers.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE ITALIAN OFFENSIVE. BRITISH GUNNERS' VALUABLE HELP.

LONDON, May 25th.
Reuter's Agency learns officially that no fewer than ten Austrian divisions, comprising one hundred Battalions, are concentrated between the sea and Boscomale, the scene of the great offensive.

The Italian Intelligence Department estimates that 100,000 bayonets, not to speak of hundreds of batteries of varying calibre, and thousands of machine-guns, were opposed to the Italians here. In nearly every case the defence was a triple line of trenches protected by wide stretches of formidable entanglements, besides various other obstacles anchored to the ground.

The success of the attack is attributed to surprise. The Austrians expected a long artillery preparation, but the Italians advanced after only ten hours' bombardment. The heaviest attack was on a front of eight kilometres, and the greatest advance two kilometres.

The Italians gratefully acknowledge the valuable help of the British gunners. There is a deep political and moral significance in this new brotherhood in arms.

The part played by the air service constitutes a record. The Italian air fleet engaged consisted of 140 units, of which there were 29 battleplanes, sixteen hydroplanes, and 53 chasing planes. Despite the necessity to fly low all safely returned.

HUGE ITALIAN CAPTURES.

ROME, May 25th.
An official report states:—The battle is still raging from the sea to Plava.

Our troops fought their way through a labyrinth of fortifications stubbornly defended by strong and well-trained forces.

The total prisoners captured on Wednesday and Thursday was 10,245, including 218 officers.

We drove back the enemy to a line southward of Jamiano, extended our positions northward of Jamiano to the outskirts of Versic.

Violent counter-attacks in the southern Carso and at Monte Cucco in the Vodice area failed with heavy losses.

Our aircraft effectively bombed the station at Santa Lucia, Tolmino.

Three enemy machines were brought down.

AUSTRIAN VERSION.

LONDON, May 25th.
The Austrian communiqué speaks of a battle being waged with extraordinary stubbornness on the whole front from Plava to the sea. Masses of Italians are attacking furiously. It merely admits withdrawal on one kilometre in one sector.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN SUBMARINES CAPTURE FIVE SWEDISH VESSELS.

PETROGRAD, May 26th.
German submarines captured five Swedish ships in the Gulf of Bothnia in two days.

The Near East.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

RUSSIANS FRUSTRATE TURKS.

PETROGRAD, May 26th.
An official report transmitted by wireless states that the Russians frustrated Turkish attempts to dislodge us from the heights southward of Van.

General.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

FIRES IN GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, May 26th.
Great fires continue to break out in Germany.

The latest include the gutting of the Moabit goods station, Berlin, in which tanks of petrol, hydrogen, etc., exploded, causing their destruction; a part of Vilna and the township of Osjory, near Grodno; and a conflagration in the station and basket factory in Halle.

Incendiarism is suspected.

FALL OF COUNT TISZA.

AMSTERDAM, May 26th.
German papers ascribe the downfall of Count Tisza to the new policy aiming at the triple administrative system in Austria, whereby a third of the State will be Slav, namely, Polish or Polish Czech.

The papers declare that Austria-Hungary will thus become overwhelmingly Slav, which would seriously damage Germany.

NEW COASTAL SHIPPING CONTROLLER.

LONDON, May 26th.
The Glasgow shipowner, Mr. Hector McNeal, has been appointed Controller of all coasting shipping.

The new Controller will arrange for the transhipment of cargoes from the larger liners arriving at the first home ports with cargoes for other destinations.

It is anticipated that this arrangement will save much shipping from the submarines.

MR. BALFOUR AT TORONTO

LONDON, May 26th.
Mr. Balfour received an ovation on arrival.

Mr. Balfour received the heartiest welcome. Thousands greeted him at the railway station and lined the streets to Queen's Park, where a reception was given by the province and city.

Replying to addresses by the Premier and Mayor, Mr. Balfour said he left on the other side of the border a nation of friends, and he had come to Canada, a great free country, composed not only of friends but of countrymen. The Empire was brought closer together by the consciousness that for two and a half years they had been engaged in a great struggle in which, thank God, all North America were now as one.

The whole Empire felt profoundly the magnitude of Canada's effort, and valued it for itself and for the evidence to all posterity and all the world what Empire really means.

There is a strong desire that Mr. Balfour should visit Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia.

AMERICAN TRADING WITH ENEMY BILL.

WASHINGTON, May 26th.
The Government's Trading with the Enemy Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives.

It is largely modelled on the British law.

FRENCH CHAMBER DISCUSS SUBMARINISM.

PARIS, May 26th.
The Chamber discussed submarine warfare. The Minister of Marine agreed with Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Milner that the submarines will not beat us. With the captured tonnage and the tonnage purchased and constructed, the Allied and neutral tonnage at the beginning of 1917 was about the same as at the commencement of the war. Our total losses during the first four months of 1917 might be put at 32 million tons, and taking account of the rate of construction, without being unduly optimistic, our losses for the year, if the submarine warfare is continued with the same intensity, would be 41 million tons. Our total is over 40,000,000 tons. With the Allies restricting imports we can with the present tonnage meet all the requirements of the country and resume the transport of war material.

The Minister pointed out that the sinkings to May 23rd were markedly decreased, being only 250,000 tons. He gave statistics showing that the German blockade was never effective, since the French ports received all the ships they could accommodate. These had brought everything needed by the country. During March 4th, 200,000 tons of goods entered French ports.

RUSSIAN TROOPS' MORALE.

PETROGRAD, May 26th.
General Ruskay arrived after relinquishing his command. He spoke hopefully of the improving morale of the troops, their fraternising with the enemy having stopped.

THE COTTON-WEAVERS' DISPUTE.

LONDON, May 26th.
The cotton manufacturers in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire and Derbyshire booked orders at Manchester to-day for foreign and home trade at prices based upon a ten per cent. increase in wages to 240,000 cotton-weavers on the assumption that the weavers to-morrow will accept ten per cent. increase instead of holding out for a twenty per cent. advance.

EARLIER CABLES.

SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, May 27th.
Messrs. Montagu's report states that the tone of the market continues remarkably steady, and the price has moved again with very narrow limits. There has been an absence of business from the East and buying orders have been mainly for coinage.

THE AIR RAID ON BRITAIN

LONDON, May 26th.
A Berlin official report gives an imaginative account of the air raid on May 24th.

It says the airships attacked the fortified places Sheerness, Harwich and Norwich successfully, and that all the airships returned undamaged, despite the perfected enemy defences.

FRENCH SHIPPING.

PARIS, May 25th.
It is officially announced that during the week ending May 20th the arrivals were 691 and the sailings 1,016. There was one sinking above 1,000 tons and two below. Three vessels were unsuccessfully attacked.

[Telegrams received on Saturday and on Sunday morning and published in an "Extra" on Sunday, will be found on Page 6.]

HONGKONG'S FINANCES.

The financial statement for the month of February, 1917, was as follows:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE	
Balance of Assets and Liabilities on 31st Jan. 1917	\$1,708,476.17
Revenue from 1st to 28th February, 1917	1,100,186.17
Expenditure from 1st to 28th February, 1917	2,808,662.34
Balance	\$1,547,924.53

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT.

SHANGHAI, May 27th.
Chung-hsun has wired to the President stating that the dismissal of Tan-chi-sui, ex-Premier and Minister for War, is illegal.

Liang-chi-chao has informed the President by telegram that he will retire.

The President has appointed Li King-shi Premier.

Wang Shu-chen will be appointed Minister for War.

OUR WAR MUSEUM.

THE LATEST ADDITIONS.

[BY TWELVES BEEK.]

GALLERY OF RELICS AND CURIOS.

1.—Convex mirrors, as fixed in the exits of restaurants and clubs in 1917 by order of the Food Control Department to maintain the moral of the public.

2.—Actual plates used in the terrible duel at a food values exhibition in May, 1917, between Mr. Eustace Miles and Dr. Robert Bell. The conditions of the duel were that each antagonist should dine upon food chosen by his opponent. Mr. Eustace Miles dined upon uncooked vegetables and Dr. Bell upon cooked vegetables. Both combatants perishing, the duel was proclaimed a draw. After the lapse of nearly a century this was the last recourse to the barbarous practice of duelling in this country.

3.—Knickerbockers, stockings, bag "driver," "niblick," "mashie," and "putter" of the eccentric who, for a wager, travelled thus equipped by daylight to Sunningdale on the Thursday before Easter, 1917.

4.—Wonderful example of thoroughness and system in Departmental war work. Complete card-indexing system. The indexes employed scores of people and two floors of a large building. They were only abolished when the achievements of the Department were found to end at the indexes.

5.—Cutting from the *Lancet* (April, 1917), being the history of the case of a patriotic rich man who lived upon caviare, lobsters, snipe, and pigeons (by request of Mr. Kennedy Jones) in order to save cheaper foods for the poor.

6.—Ancient photograph, once supposed to depict San Francisco during its rebuilding. Now known to be a London park during the third year of the great war.

7.—Roman coins found in the bed of the Serpentine when it was drained to make room for more Government offices.

8.—Paleolithic flint, from the Geological Museum, Jermyn-street, London, a scandalous resort of recreation and frothy amusement during war time that was closed after agitation by social reformers.

9.—Reputed "Unexploded Zeppelin Bomb." This ignorant treasure of many such relics during the great war. Modern science has proved them to be leaves of war bread as sold by opportunist bakers of the period.

10.—Portrait of one of the self-named "Optimists" who flourished in 1914-16. The curious creed of this sect was that the enemy could be beaten by "treating" him from an armchair.—*Daily Mail*.

BIG BATTLESHIPS.

TYPES OF THE FUTURE.

An analysis of naval battles during the war leads a clever writer in *Engineering* to the conclusion that battleships must be at least as large as and probably larger than any existing vessels of this class, and "small" battleships are thus at once ruled out. The discussion shows, moreover, that larger ships, quite apart from their greater carrying capacity, possess inherent nautical, technical, military, and economic advantages which render them intrinsically superior to smaller. These advantages cannot be obtained by an aggregation of small vessels, however great their number.

It is shown also that the risks of war and peace are no greater for large than for small ships. The limitation to an increase in size imposed by the requirement to tactical and strategical viability of the forces is essentially a financial one, and need not, so far, be considered by any great and wealthy nation. The only active limitations are those due to restrictions in the use of ports, docks, canals, and channels. These limitations, although of a yielding nature, inevitably accompany increases in the principal dimensions, and can never be entirely ignored.

Taking all arguments into consideration, it appears that a small number of larger battleships is, from almost every point of view preferable to a greater number of smaller vessels, but it seems wise not to exceed the displacement strictly necessary to secure the desired nautical and military qualities, so as to minimise, as far as possible, the effects of hydrographic restrictions, depths of channels, widths of channels, etc. Battleships have always required the assistance of lighter vessels for scouting, despatch service, and other strategic duties, but tactically they have up till quite recently been self-contained.

It is of interest to note that under modern conditions of warfare this is no longer the case. Battleships and battle-cruisers now require for their assistance and protection in battle a variety of attendant ships of different types, the most important of which are light cruisers, destroyers, submarines, and aircraft. This specialisation renders it possible to make each type more perfect of its kind, and justifies the enormous concentration of power in the large battleship, which, whether it is acting singly or in squadron, becomes the nucleus of a complex unit where every fighting quality, offensive and defensive, is represented at its maximum value.

MEN FOR THE ARMY. LORD DERBY'S STATEMENT. "MORE DRASTIC MEASURES."

In the House of Lords last month, the Earl of Derby, in moving the second reading of the Military Service (Review of Exceptions) Bill, said in the other House it was suggested that it might be possible to have special medical appeal boards. He had considered that point, and had come to the conclusion that it was quite impossible to set up such boards. Some people seemed to think that the work of the Royal Army Medical Corps was unattended with danger. So far from this being the case, 440 doctors had been killed or wounded in the Somme battle alone, and the medical staff at the present time was not, perhaps, critically short, but lamentably short. He was prepared to allow medical certificates given by private practitioners to be taken into account, but he could give no undertaking that these certificates would be accepted as conclusive. In each case it must be left to the doctor examining on behalf of the Army to say whether or not the man was fit for service.

This was not a popular measure, and no one recognized that more than he did. If this was going to be the only measure to be taken to fill the ranks of the Army, he would be extremely reluctant to stand sponsor for it. But there would have to be taken larger and far more drastic measures to secure for the Army the men necessary, and it would be absolutely essential, when such a measure was brought in, to incorporate in it the provisions of this bill. Mr. Bonar Law had stated accurately that we were more than 100,000 men down since the beginning of the year in our Army requirements. There were many people who would advocate immediate and very drastic measures. He saw the need for action as quickly as many, but he equally saw the absolute necessity of weighing the absolute balance, the needs of these industries which were indispensable. Until it was brought home to the country the absolute necessity of putting forward its whole strength, the nation could only act as a strength, to its Allies, and to posterity. We had never been traitors, and he felt sure that any sacrifice required of the country would be made. Few people could have any doubt that the war would end in a victory for the Allies, but if the victory was to be complete we must have a military and naval victory. He did not think there was anything more painful than to have to stand up, either in that House or in the country, to beg for men to be sent, either voluntarily or by legislation, to fight for this country. But he believed that the country, having declared its intention of carrying on the war to the bitter end, was not going to stop short of any measure that would help it to do that.

LORD CREWE'S SUPPORT.
The Marquis of Crewe said he had been asked whether it would not have been simpler on the whole, instead of engaging in the necessarily elaborate machinery demanded by this bill, to obtain a number of recruits such as would be required for the next three or six months to keep our forces at their present strength by some raising of the military age. He was inclined to conjecture from what Lord Derby had said that he did not overlook the possibility that that expedient might yet have to be kept in reserve, but he did not desire to press him on the point if the Government thought it desirable to proceed by this more complicated method. The success of a measure of this kind depended on the care with which it was administered. If there were any recklessness in its administration which caused it to become known that unfit men had been returned to the ranks before they were able to render proper service, or if cases occurred in which it was proved that men had been withdrawn from occupations necessary in the national interests in order to swell the ranks of the Army, the Government could not be surprised if somewhat harsh criticism followed. He sincerely hoped there would be no cause for such criticism, and he supported the bill.

Viscount Chaplin declared that there was one part of the bill which he found it difficult to find a great field for recruiting, namely, Ireland. If the position was as serious as it seemed to be, why did the Government not ask that portion of the United Kingdom to contribute its fair share of the men who were required?

The Earl of Derby said the reason why this bill was brought in now was in the hope that the Government might get it through before Easter, whereas a larger and more contentious measure would certainly not have secured passage through both Houses. This was not an alternative; it was a supplementary bill. It dealt only with a part of the great problem that had to be faced. The fact of setting this bill now would, he hoped, enable a considerable number of men to be examined over before Parliament re-assembled after the recess. Lord Crewe had asked that men should not be taken away from work of national importance. The noble Marquis was under a misapprehension. These men would be under exactly the same conditions as regarded employment as any other men who were badged or certified for exemption. Therefore, the only men who would be taken for the Army would be those who came within the bill, and had not been exempted by tribunals or badged by the Ministry of Munitions. He agreed that the bill would have to be worked with the greatest possible care, and the Government would do everything they could to administer it in a considerate manner. He did not wish in any way to minimise the danger and difficulty of the position. But he wanted the country clearly to understand that he was perfectly certain all the men who were wanted for the Army and the Navy were there, and could be got without destroying our vital industries. With regard to Ireland, Lord Chaplin would forgive him if he did not go into that very thorny subject, although

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SMUTS OF AFRICA. CHARACTER SKETCH OF A STRONG MAN.

[BY J.M., IN THE "DAILY CHRONICLE"]

Jan Smuts began at the blank end of our continent driving cease. He is now near the Line driving Germans. Will that be the final stage?

It is an interesting question, to us as well as to his own people, for he is now in London taking a hand in Imperial affairs. We have known him by name as a lawyer, a soldier, a statesman, and always as a strong, original personality. Somebody in South Africa once said:—"Botha sits all day at a spotless table with a rectangle of virginal blotting paper before him, Smuts burrows his way, from morning to night, through mountains of official papers."

A SON OF THE VELD.
Young Jan was "raised" on the veldt, and the living spirit which it gives has been in all his career. He came to Cambridge did brilliantly as a student, practised law in South Africa, "anticipated Bergson" there, in one of many things he wrote, found fame in the Boer war, and has grown in fame ever since. Here is a word-portrait of him before the war:—

Imagine a pale-faced, tremendously serious-looking young man, who appeared much taller than he really was, owing to his thinness; given to holding converse with the pavement, always in thought, and seemingly taking no notice of what went on around him; with high cheek bones and the hungry look that betokens the man whose mind is grappling with many problems.

And here is another vignette of him after the war, that of a man: it had ripened physically and mentally.

Gone was the pallor of his face, gone also the thinness of his frame. His skin was now clear with the ruddy glow of health. The hectic heat of his forehead had been diminished by considerable growth of flaxen beard. He had gained remarkably, not only in flesh, but in chest measurement. His expression had changed from one of constant brooding until it bespoke alertness and vigour.

His resourcefulness as a soldier, his instinct for the art of war, have been seen during his recent fine East African campaign as a British general. His like qualities when he was our "sweet enemy" in the Boer war are illustrated by this little incident:—

Owing to a native's treachery the troops one night took his camp by surprise, and in absolute silence. Most of his men got away, but, incredible though it may seem, he himself was left sleeping the sleep of exhaustion among some bushes in the Gatsrand range of hills. When he awoke it was some time before he could believe the evidence of his eyes, which persisted in telling him that he was surrounded by khaki. He no longer realised his predicament than he began to devise methods for getting away, in which he succeeded before many minutes had passed.

THE EYEING EYE.
Style is a man—outwardly: the eyes are in a man inwardly, and General Smuts has light blue eyes that "will sometimes assume a grey tint, or appear like the azure of the ocean. Their normal expression is haunting, penetrating. They suggest a man of resource and surprise, one who is himself first, last and all the time, though always the man for any occasion.

No man looks better in khaki than General Smuts, but a "haversack" does not take away in the least from his vivid personality. He is an instance of the man and clothes, not of "clothes and the man." Says his biographer, Mr. M. Levi:—"As a man-about-town, he dresses more carefully than the average South African (dress is not a strong point with us), yet without even a suspicion of dandyism. On his farm he falls into the general habit, and the homeliness of his attire, no less than his attitude towards the welcome visitor, would put the most bashful of his ease."

Strong, without being still far-seeing without being a prophet, young enough to have his best career before him. General Smuts is a remarkable contribution by Greater Britain to the forces guiding our part of Armageddon. Mr. Levi's exposition of him presents us to an Afrikaner leader who has thought deeply, is a swift to his wale, if he had one. But he has none, literally or figuratively, for he has "attained the only true independence, which consists in a man doing his own work."

he admitted that it was one deserving of careful consideration.

The bill having been read a second time, the House went into Committee.

The Earl of Derby said he had arranged with the President of the Board of Agriculture that where there were men who the Army thought ought to be called up for medical examination a list should be prepared, and the representative of the Army and the local representative of the Board should consult and ascertain whether or not the men on the list were whole-time agriculturists. If it were agreed that they were whole-time agriculturists they would be marked off and not called up, but if they were not the Army authorities would be entitled to call them up, and the men would then have the right under the Military Service Act to appeal to the local Tribunal, and if necessary to the Appeal Tribunal.

The bill, having been reported to the House without amendment, was read a third time and passed.

TWO AND A HALF YEARS WITH THE GERMANS. ENGLISHMAN'S LIFE IN NORTHERN FRANCE.

THE FLIGHT OF LILLE.

IV.

Of the ramifications of Kultur as the Germans inculcated it in Roubaix there was no end. The soldiers who tore 10,000 people, hundreds of them mere schoolboys and young girls, from their homes and sent them to slavery; the men who pillaged houses and shops for metal; the gendarmes who terrorized the whole countryside—these were only the chief of the missionaries of the new gospel. They brought in their train a swarm of miscellaneous agents, less brutal in their methods, but more insidious.

Not many days after the occupation of Lille town numbers of German civilians, women as well as men, arrived and took up quarters among us.

They seemed at first to have no definite purpose in view, that before long the reason for their presence became apparent. They were the emissaries of the German Secret Service, and their main occupation was espionage. Much of their time was spent in the tramcars and cafés listening to the conversation of the town—for a chance remark which could be turned to account. Sometimes they would go cavedropping among the soldiers or walk about the Belgian frontier spying upon the sentries.

THE AGENTS OF OPPRESSION.

Now and again some unfortunate townsman would find his house invaded by a party of soldiers under the command of an officer. Without offering any explanation of the visit, the men would set to work to search the house from cellar to garret, hunting in the most inconceivable places for something which they believed to be hidden. They would even strip the paper from the walls and remove the backs of picture frames.

The only justification given for these domiciliary visits was the receipt by the Kommandant of anonymous letters, presumably written by some one who nursed a grievance against the householders subjected to the indignity. To give colour to this excuse a number of letters alleged to have been received at the Kommandant's office were exhibited on a glass-fronted board there. Many of the townspeople, however, declined to be satisfied with that explanation, preferring to believe, possibly not altogether without cause, that the real informers were the secret agents whose presence and practices were notorious.

Among the auxiliaries of the Germans were certain Flemings, who sold their services to the enemy in a score of ways. When the Germans appropriated the stocks of wool and piece-goods, the booty was carried from the warehouses and loaded on lorries by Flemings. I saw German non-commissioned officers hand them their wages at the end of the day. When the enemy wanted trenches made, Flemings dug them at 4 marks (4s. 8d.) a day. Flemings repaired railway lines for them, and guarded railway crossings to release soldiers for the front.

Gangs of them came to Roubaix by train from Belgium each morning, under the charge of German foremen, and returned across the frontier at night. One of my acquaintances who knew Flemish told me they had confessed to him that they undertook these tasks quite voluntarily for the invader, and indeed it was obvious enough that they were under no restraint.

THE WORK OF THE WOMEN.

The privilege which the Flemish labourers enjoyed of travelling by train was rigorously denied to the native population and the other Allied subjects in this part of France. We were free, nevertheless, to wander at will through the country between Lille and Roubaix and within a short distance of the frontier, subject, of course, to the production of our papers of identity on the demand of any German who chose to see them.

Sometimes, tired of reading and card-playing, and yearning for the freedom of the open air, I went for a tramp through the fields. Work on the land went on steadily. Many of the French farm labourers had gone, but the women of rural France are inured to agricultural life, and with the help of German soldiers they kept every acre of the arable land under cultivation. Particular attention was given by the enemy to the growing of potatoes. Last year they forbade under heavy penalties the digging of the potato crop before August, and this year potatoes are to be planted on every spare piece of land.

There was one striking gap in the picture. Nowhere did I see a cow, or a sheep, or a pig. All the cattle had been taken by the enemy. Most of the horses also had gone. Even the old weak-looking animals that remained were periodically examined and some taken. Chickens were plentiful, but the keeping of them was conditional on the payment of a toll to the Kommandantur of one egg and a half per hen per month.

Occasionally I made excursions to Tourcoing, a commune which adjoins Roubaix on the side towards Lille. My first venture out of doors, after the coming of the Germans, took me there. I had immersed myself for about two months while the invaders were settling down, and it was with some trepidation that I set out on the journey. I went on foot—it was only a matter of a couple of miles—and when I found that soldiers passed me without seeming unduly suspicious I gradually regained confidence. Looking back over the intervening years I recall with some amusement on what tattered boots I went. It is not necessary to describe the conditions which prevailed in Tourcoing. In all essential respects they were identical with those of Roubaix.

Several times I travelled farther afield and visited Lille. There was much in this great manufacturing town to give food for reflection. Its throbbing industrial life was paralysed; its spindle and looms idle, its tens of thousands workpeople unemployed. Lille had paid to the German taskmasters its tribute of slaves, and its homes and workshops had been despoiled. It was another Roubaix, doubled in magnitude.

But Lille had other trials which were unknown in the smaller town. It was a fortified place, and it had paid the penalty. Whole streets had been obliterated by the German guns. The Rue Faidherbe, the Rue de Béthune, the Rue de Paris, the Rue de Tournai, the Place du Théâtre, and others of the streets near the railway station were reduced to ruins. Not all the devastation was wrought by gunfire. There are many in Lille who can tell you that they saw detachments of the captors go from house to house, compelling the tenants at the point of the revolver to stand by while their homes were searched, and that the Germans cut off the water supply of the town to prevent any attempt to check the flames. The wreckage remains to-day, a monument to German infamy. A large section of the town is an indescribable heap of masonry, charred timber and rubble, over which towers the gaunt chimney of a six-storey tenement house.

Around this scene of desolation revolves the life of the garrison. Large numbers of German troops are always to be found in the town and among the field fortifications which have been built outside it.

The lot of the soldiers is made as easy as possible by those over them.

Newspapers, magazines and periodicals of every kind are provided in abundance. A cinematograph hall helps to while away the time; it is the only picture hall which remains open.

A theatre which at the time when the town fell was in course of construction has been completed under the direction of the German authorities and decorated according to German tastes. Some months ago it was formally opened by the Crown Prince of Bavaria, and performances are now given there by companies from Germany. Posters announcing the plays are displayed in Roubaix and Tourcoing as well as Lille, and on Sunday special theatre trains and trams are run to carry the soldiers to and from outlying districts.

OFFICERS AND "JOY-RIDES."

Shops staffed by German girls and men have been opened for the sale of tobacco, biscuits, tinned foods, cap badges and innumerable other articles to the troops. For the officers at least one refreshment house, the Café Bellevue, has been taken over.

One of the most curious features of Lille is the extraordinary number of officers encountered in a casual stroll through any part of the town. They can be counted by the score. When they are "joy-riding" in commandeered motor-cars, they are swaggering along, puffing big cigars and staring with a supercilious monocled eye at every pretty girl who passes. So many are they and so immovably stationed in Lille that there is a rooted conviction among the French people, with what foundation I cannot say, that they have secured their immunity from real warfare either by purchase or by influence.

The account I have already given of the plight of the people of Roubaix is equally applicable to the inhabitants of Lille. The control over their movements is rather more strict, in view of the military importance of the town. The food problem is also rather more serious, partly owing to the size of the population and partly owing to the greater distance which separates them from Belgium—the land of plenty beyond the frontier. But in spite of all they have suffered and are suffering, the people of Lille share with all their fellow-citizens of the Department du Nord an unalterable determination to hold out until they are freed from the German incubus.

About a year ago there occurred outside Lille a tremendous explosion. Eight miles away, in Roubaix, the shock seemed to make the ground rock, and all sprang from their beds in wonderment. The next morning we learned that an explosive magazine in the fortifications had blown up, killing and injuring many soldiers and hurling huge blocks of stone through the air for a mile around. Following their usual custom, the Germans passed round stories of treachery instigated by "the English." The fact that shortly after the disaster they were seen to throw large quantities of powder into the river Marais points to another explanation.

In my next message I shall describe some of the astounding discoveries which I made in Belgium. Before passing from my experiences on the French side of the border, I have two incidents to record. In all the weary months of 1915 and 1916 I saw only five men of the British Army. They were brought into Roubaix as prisoners, and they stood for a few minutes in the roadway waiting for a tramcar to carry them a further stage towards captivity. I tried to get near to them with a handful of cigarettes, but before I could allow a way through the crowd of Germans and civilians who surrounded them a car came up and they were gone. Over the shoulders of the crowd, however, I could see that, although all of them were wounded, they were definitely cheerful. One of them was munching a lump of chocolate.

The other incident I personally did not witness. Last year a British aeroplane was brought down by the famous Captain Boelcke at Lannoy, just outside Roubaix, and the pilot and observer lost their lives. They were buried with military honours in Roubaix cemetery, in the presence of many of the townspeople. I was unable to be there, but I have seen the little wooden cross which marks the grave of Lieutenant Gray and Lieutenant Wilkinson, and I have seen the flowers with which French and British men and women covered the grave on All Souls Day.—Times.

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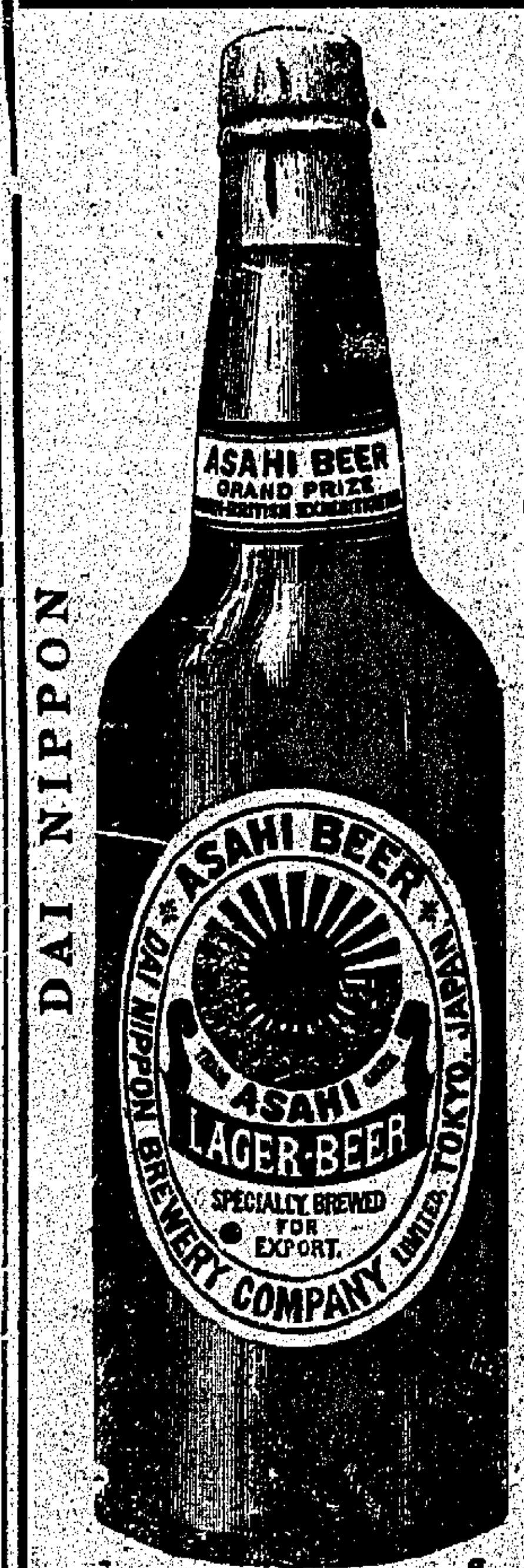


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"KAJO MARU" ... SUNDAY, 3rd June, at Noon.
"SOSHU MARU" ... THURSDAY, 7th June, at 9 A.M.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 78 will be fixed.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

Telephone Nos. 744 and 745. M. HIGUCHI, Manager, No. 1, Queen's Building.

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